

Other owls as is well known spend the day at rest on some suitable perch and it is probably only the exposed habitat of this species that makes it more conspicuous at this time and invites the assumption that it is diurnal in habits. The ease with which we make unauthorized assumptions may be seen at another point in Dr. Wood's paper where following the majority of writers he says that these owls mate "probably for life" whereas Mr. Baldwin's investigations on bird breeding (cf. Auk, 1920 p.) seem to show that we have no warrant for any such assumption.

Dr. Wood's paper is most welcome as we need just such special investigation into the various organs of birds before we can hope for a proper understanding of their systematic relationships.—W. S.

**Murphy on the Seacoast and Islands of Peru.**—Mr. Robert Cushman Murphy has published two papers<sup>1</sup> descriptive of his recent trip to the Peruvian seacoast which give one an interesting account of this country and its physical features. Of especial interest to the zoologist is his discussion of the ocean currents and their effect upon the distribution of life on the Pacific coast of America. Many sketch maps show clearly how cold currents, following the coast as far south as Cape San Lucas, carry boreal types southward and how similar currents flowing northward bring antarctic types as far as northern Peru, while warm ocean streams on the west coast of Mexico, Central America and northern South America delimit the range of the tropical life found on the shores of this area. The uniformity of surface temperature on the Peruvian coast as compared with the western Atlantic and the percentage of salinity are discussed with reference to their effect upon animal life, while the climate of Lima is graphically described as well as the faunal zones of Peru dependent, as has been shown by Dr. Chapman in the case of Colombia farther north, upon winds and cloud banks quite as much as upon elevation.

Mr. Murphy's papers should be read by everyone interested in South America and its fauna as well as by students of geographical distribution, who will find in this southern continent factors which are entirely absent in North America and which are quite novel to one trained to explain everything by circumpolar temperature zones and peculiarities of local environment.—W. S.

**Dr. Shufeldt's Bibliography.**—The seventh and eighth installments of Dr. Shufeldt's bibliography<sup>2</sup> have appeared which bring the list down to 1918, while the introductory pages contain much biographical matter.—W. S.

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<sup>1</sup> The Seacoast and Islands of Peru. By Robert Cushman Murphy. Parts I and II. The Brooklyn Museum Quarterly, January and April, 1920.

<sup>2</sup> Complete List of My Published Writings with Brief Biographical Notes. By R. W. Shufeldt, Medical Review of Reviews, July and August, 1920, pp. 368-377 and 437-447.